

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By the Office Action, claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found in the claims as originally filed; and in the specification at, for example, page 32 and the Examples. No new matter is added.

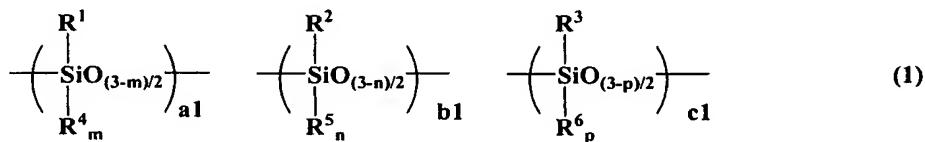
Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein) or places the application into better form for Appeal should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims, does not raise the issue of new matter, and does not raise any new issues requiring additional search and/or consideration since the Amendment is directed to subject matter previously considered during prosecution. Furthermore, the amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are in response to issues raised in the Final Rejection regarding clarity of the claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended their representative in the July 12, 2006, telephone interview, the substance of which was clarified in a subsequent July 20 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action questions whether the repeating unit containing R^3 is limited to the specific repeating units listed in claims 1 and 2, or R^3 is limited to the groups shown within the repeating units with p able to be 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In response to the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are amended herein merely to clarify the claim language, and not to alter the scope of the claims.

As shown in the amended claims, the R^3 group is limited to groups shown within the specific repeating units listed in original claims 1 and 2. That is, for example, the claimed anti-reflection film material of claim 1 contains at least a polymer compound having repeating units for copolymerization represented by the following general formula (1):



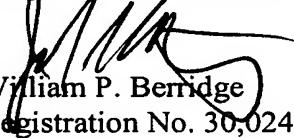
With respect to the portion denoted by the subscript $c1$, the group would include one of the listed monovalent organic groups (identified as R^3). The claims are amended herein to confirm that the R^3 group is bonded to the SiO group of the $c1$ unit, and not that the R^3 group itself also contains a SiO group. That is, in the original claims, the R^3 groups were shown as appearing to include a $\text{SiO}_{3/2}$ group, although the indicated $\text{SiO}_{3/2}$ group was in fact merely the SiO group of the main chain of the $c1$ unit. The SiO group in the R^3 groups was shown only to indicate the point of attachment of the R^3 groups to the $c1$ unit. For the Examiner's clarification, the listed R^3 groups do not include a separate SiO group separate from the $\text{SiO}_{(3-p)/2}$ group that is included in the portion of formula (1) denoted by the subscript $c1$.

Accordingly, the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be necessary in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

WPB:JSA

Date: July 31, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400